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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0074/037001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroki FURUKAWA  
Application No.: 10/730,271  
Filed : December 9, 2003  
Title : NULL SYMBOL DETECTION DEVICE

Art Unit: 2614  
Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicant requests that the reference cited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

This new reference, a copy of which is enclosed, was cited and discussed in the office action mailed on January 4, 2006 from European Patent Office in a counterpart application.

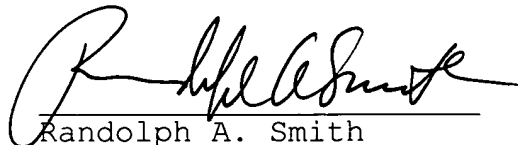
This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2006

  
Randolph A. Smith  
Reg. No. 32,548

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

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Applicant	Hiroki FURUKAWA
Group Art Unit	2614
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	0074/037001

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

[illegible]

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.

<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.